

# 5

Pillars For  
Swimming in  
the  
River of Supernatural

JEAN TSHIBANGU

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Caremsministries  
55 Bedford Street South  
Leicester LE1 3JR  
Www. Caremschurch.uk  
Phone: 00441163482227

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# Dedication

To my wife, Monique Mbiya at our forty-two years of common life of marriage, your support, unflagging encouragement, selfless support, daily sacrifices, long-term patience, persistent challenges, prayers, and faithful love have made my life far richer.

To my beloved children biological than spiritual for your support.



# Preface

It was in September 1987 when, one night, the Lord visited me and spoke to me as one man speaks to another. He said to me: "I have called you to serve me. The enemy had given you three years of life and, in 1990, you should die. But I, God, have spared you from this plan so that you may serve me".

There was a lengthy exchange that night, but I felt that I was not qualified, and then my professional occupations would cause me a lot of trouble in my relationship with the church members. A few years later, the Lord comes back with a specific question: "when will you commit to serving me?" I responded to Him by giving Him a date, which was July 17, 2007.

However, when I reached the date, I did not comply and continued my work as if nothing happened. On July 19, one day later, while I was turning around in the warehouse to put the displays in order, I received an invisible blow on my back that I felt paralyzed; ASDA IDC Company in Lutterworth was where I worked. I have been taken to a hospital where I spent more than three hours, then sent home. I couldn't get up or walk for three months. I went to Belgium for the appropriate treatment and returned to Great Britain; I said: Lord, here I am. Thus, I was officially consecrated as a minister of God in the eyes of men.





# Introduction

The spiritual world, a realm of unfathomable realities, stands as a testament to the awe-inspiring power of God. Those who delve into its mysteries are entrusted with the duty to understand its profound depths.

The supernatural attracts everyone; people run in all directions to discover the secret, which makes the title of my present book enticing. I am sure that it will be of interest to many of God's ministers and children. Why we believe that? The answer is simple: people's interest in the supernatural, unbelievers and Christians alike, made it the centre of interest. God wants His people live His glory; the devil on his side fights that he also has the power to do what God does.

In daily life, everyone wants to see his ministry prosper and flourish, to live the supernatural. As I intent to define the concept, “supernatural” as which escapes the laws of nature, which is revealed, produced by the grace of God, things that manifest the omnipotence of God and that bring the Kingdom of God down on the earth. All ways are used to demonstrate the supernatural among unbelievers as well as Christians and other religions!

Amidst the proliferation of doctrines, occult practices, and spiritual phenomena wrongly attributed to the Holy Spirit, there is an urgent need to awaken the consciousness of God's people. The infiltration of Simon the magician and the Egyptian magicians, who seek to operate as God's faithful ministers, must be exposed.

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The light of God is our weapon against the darkness. The Lord God warns us: 'My people perish for lack of knowledge' (Hosea 4:6-8).

In the era of counterfeiting, the ability to discern what is from God and what is from the adversary, the chief counterfeiter, becomes a crucial tool in our spiritual arsenal. As the Christian world seeks miracles, healings, and prophecies, the enemy, like a mimic of God, presents them as counterfeits. It is our duty to discern the true from the false.

Let us consider the visions of Ezekiel as they can help us understand what the sense of our thoughts is:

As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits[a] and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross. He asked me, “Son of man, do you see this? “Then he led me back to the bank of the river.

Ezekiel 47:3-6

The first five verses of aforementioned text contain the answer and the basis of our message: “It was a river that I could not cross because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in.” These verses symbolize the increasing depth and complexity of spiritual understanding, with the river representing the vastness

of divine knowledge that is beyond human understanding.

A man of God operating under the "prophetic anointing" is invited to a given church. He was announced in the church with trumpets that the people were waiting for the prophecies; here, we must understand divination; everyone was waiting to receive at least one word about his life, which are responsible of his misfortunes. Nothing of the sort! The sanctuary was in total disappointment. After the service, the members were queuing to hear something, but in vain. The host was also wet because he did not know what to say to the congregation, whose expectations were disappointed. He told him: "Do something today to relieve the audience. Even if you have to imagine something, don't hesitate."

Encouraged by his colleague, he climbed the pulpit the next day. He began as if by a magic stick to declare the prophetic words of counterfeiting, and the sanctuary was in heaven, vibrating like a mobile phone under vibrations. He continued on the third day, and the room was amazed. However, when Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, He could not give in to the temptations to obey by doing what Satan proposed to him. Instead, He resorted to the Word of God to discourage the tempter.

In this book, I have considered five pillars that sustain the authentic supernatural—the true one that comes from God. These pillars are spiritual sensibility, faith, presence of God, glory, and anointing. Five chapters each deals with an overlapping theme that contains the ingredients necessary to meet the purpose of God's Word, as expressed by the apostle Paul. Paul

speaks of spiritual things which: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”— the things God has prepared for those who love him— these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak; not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught Words. (1 Corinthians 2:9-13).

You will find also the answers to the commonly asked questions twisted by the unsettled and ignorant. Without the revelation of the Holy Spirit, darkness will continue to reign in their minds. My deep desire is to bring God’s children back to live the supernatural and the genuine supernatural, not counterfeit, by feeling with our fingers the mysterious divine spiritual realities instead of resorting to satanic powers or letting ourselves be carried away by all kinds of winds (1 Corinthians 2:13). Awakening their attention in these end times when Satan has cast off his commanders in all Christian circles to snatch as many weak souls as possible through practices that resemble biblical truth remains among the objectives we are aiming for. The order of chaptering seems to correspond to the spiritual reality of how the Spirit operates.

# Chapter 1

## Spiritual sensibility

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? “But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:14-16

In 1981, the Lord caused that by some circumstances, I was taken care of by the aunt Albertine Kabola Luboya who resided opposite the Gombe Cemetery on the Bouvard du 30 Juin in Kinshasa. A woman of prayer who devoted all her time and finances to the service of the Lord. One day, she took me in her car to the Nzambe Malamu church in Macampagne which was led at that time by the servant of God, Maman Ntumba. She put me in contact with the servant of God without me knowing why to understand it a few years later after my call. After teachings, I am immersed in water for water baptism. Nothing manifested itself as a baptism of the Holy Spirit because I did not yet know how this world was evolving. Several years later, I did

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the true baptism by speaking in tongues and the different signs.

Reading the aforementioned scriptures from the Apostle Paul, I agree with him completely because we do not know how to understand spiritual things with human intelligence. God reserves them for those who have received his Spirit and who give Him the direction of their lives. Unbelievers cannot grasp the truths or understand that the Spirit of God lives in believers. No one can know what the Lord is thinking, but under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, believers can gain insight into God's plans, thoughts, and activities (Romans 11:34).

Thus the spiritual man is led by his spirit while the carnal or natural man by his flesh. It is in the spirit that the Holy Spirit deploys his activity. And if the mind is not connected to the Holy Spirit, then bodily sensations will impose their law and drive the person's life. Hence the need to be able to discern things to distinguish between God and the enemy (1 Corinthians 2:1-15; Hebrews 5:13-14; Matthew 22:19).

In our prayer meetings, people are screaming, crying, throwing themselves on the ground; sometimes we experience bodily vibrations, sensational phenomena that manifest as emotions such as goosebumps in ordinary language, this is not a sign of spiritual sensitivity. Sensations are internal phenomena which reflect an individual, a stimulation of one of their receptor organs; arising from impressions received, and predominantly emotional or physiological. Sensation produces carnal emotions whose seat is the soul while sensibility manifests itself at the level of the human

spirit. Wait! It is worth remembering that man is made up of three parts, two of which are invisible and one visible: the spirit, the soul, and the body. Among the two invisibles, one interests God and is in contact with Him, it is the spirit.

Jesus makes distinction by saying: “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit (John 3:6).” Here, the sensibility which generates the new spiritual birth is a sovereign act of God which affects the spirit of man to give birth to faith; it precedes faith and thus connects man to God.

Let us remember that the spirit is the deepest part of our being, which is created in the image of God, who is Spirit. It is our spirit that goes through a new birth. It is recreated entirely anew in the image of Jesus Christ, which is first visited by sensibility and receives perfect justice from God. Our spirit is our deep inner being, the vital immaterial principle that animates our entire being. Our spirit is created in the image of God, who is Spirit. It is our spirit that puts us in contact with the spiritual world.

The soul is our psychic being, which we are ordinarily conscious of in our daily lives. It is at the emotions and soul that we exercise our abilities to think, reflect, experience feelings and emotions, and want. At the level of our soul, we are aware of ourselves as autonomous individuals. Our soul is the interface between the mind and the body, allowing us to capture and transmit to the body level the thoughts, emotions, and wills that have their source either in the spirit or the flesh. When we are converted to Christ, our soul does not go through a new birth but must be renewed after

the regeneration of our spirit. Our body, for its part, will only receive resurrection upon the Lord's return.

Thus, the spiritual man is led by his spirit, while the sensual or natural man is by his flesh. What I must remind Christians is that it is in their spirit that the Holy Spirit works. And if the mind is not connected to the Holy Spirit, then bodily sensations will impose their law and drive the person's life. It is wise not to believe in any physical impression because it eradicates the development of sensibility by substituting a sensation for the intuition of the mind. These things happen on a spiritual level that is only accessible to those whose minds are trained to perceive them (1 Corinthians 2:1-15; Hebrews 5:13-14; Matthew 22:19).

Divine anointing is not normally felt physically. It is received by faith in what the Word of God reveals to us. We may feel the anointing of the Spirit at times, but normally, the anointing is not felt and should not be felt since we walk by faith and not by sight. We must not depend on what we feel but to act by faith. We must believe that we have been anointed, that the anointing remains permanently in us, and that God has empowered us with the power of His Spirit when we ask Him.

Experiences have shown that those who make their feelings the principle of their life are led mainly by the enemy, the devil. Observe the same people who become emotionally agitated in local churches under the pretext that there is the presence of God; in everyday life, they are even more emotional, violent, aggressive, and emotionally unstable. From the slightest thing, they become inflamed and react violently, carnally. Criticisms



of others, slander, backbiting, immorality, and, in short, are more sinful than those who do not get agitated! I say mostly and not totally. A small number stand out from the rule. It has been shown that out of ten people who show emotions in prayer meetings, only one is led by the Spirit of God, and the rest are bodily or carnal emotions.

One day, around three in the morning, I heard the voice of a person crying in front of the house's veranda. I tiptoed out and found myself facing a half-naked woman who had fallen into the plot. I found myself speaking in tongues; this witch woman also dared to speak in tongues. I threatened her and commanded her to keep quiet; she obeyed. I started a conversation with her in her naked state. She revealed that she was a witch who fell immediately from a strange power hovering over the plot. I commanded her to get out of the plot; she told me she did not see how to get out. The experience opened my eyes to the fact that not everyone who speaks in tongues is necessarily led by the Spirit of God.

Satan is adept at counterfeiting the feelings that come from God. He seeks to create confusion not only in the lives of those who walk by feelings but also in the lives of people who walk by the spirit. By seeking emotions, people fall directly under the influence of Satan, who will be delighted to provide them with sensations of all kinds, all of which they will take as coming from God.

Jesus Christ relates his meeting with Nicodemus (Matthew 7:21-25). The new birth only manifests in the spiritually sensitive. It is a divine act that takes place in a person's life to open their spiritual eyes and ears so

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that they can see and hear. Contrary to what many think, this act occurs before the person's conversion.

Yes, the devil has managed to infiltrate churches by introducing his worldly practices, such as occultism, songs, and dances, which seem to glorify God while they overwhelm the enemy. What difference do we make between Christian songs and dances and those of the world? We are made to believe that in the same way that David danced for his God, this is how we dance, too! Some say they have recovered everything that Satan stole from music! Today, a church that has a worldly choir attracts more than one that is spiritual. Even Catholic churches have joined the race; they adopted the same practices for fear of losing the members; they dance and sing like the others; they preach like the others; in short, they assimilated with others to survive.

When anything, no matter how ridiculous or incredible it may be, is presented in a serious or sacred manner, in an atmosphere where honesty is taken for granted, even the most intelligent and spiritually discerning person can be taken in by a clever sleight-of-hand demonstration of trickery and deception.

Go to social media and see how women dance! When spiritual turmoil infiltrates the church, emotional manifestations prevail and become confused with the presence of God. The tone of the preacher, his movements, and his cries—briefly, all these manipulations lead the audience to purely emotional reactions that have nothing to do with the presence of the Holy Spirit or the anointing. Carnal emotions cover the Spirit of God.

Another trend that is becoming more widespread is the conversion of Christian musicians into ministers of God. This is mainly happening in African American Churches where fans of Christian music are being converted into church members. They are members because they love musicians, not Jesus Christ. This explains the commission of many scandals in these institutions. Among those who become ministers of God and open churches, it is purely out of desire, out of emotions rather than through the authentic call of God.

Opening the churches is not bad because the more wolves multiply, the more we need shepherds to watch over the sheep. But what shepherds, who become so by trickery using their musical popularity!

The Gospel, according to Mark, tells the story of Herod's daughter, who organized the party on her birthday. The daughter of Herodias entered the hall and danced and pleased Herod and his guests. The king asked him: "whatever you want and I will give it to you, even if it is half of my kingdom." Her mother said to her: the head of John the Baptist. The king sent the guard with orders to bring the head of John the Baptist. (Mark 6:21-29) How do you find the kinds of dances we experience in our African American churches? Is there a difference from what we experience in the world? The rhythm of worldly music and the notes are introduced into local churches, and the audience is carried away!! God speaks through his prophet in these terms:

Hear me, you heavens! Listen, earth! For the Lord has spoken: "I reared children and brought them up, but

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they have rebelled against me. The ox knows its master, the donkey its owner's manger, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand." Woe to the sinful nation, a people whose guilt is great, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption! They have forsaken the Lord; they have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him.

Isaiah 1:2-4

That is the result of insensitivity, contempt for the Creator!! The enemy attacks sensitivity to affect or prevent faith from functioning. Faith comes through sensitivity.

-Sensitivity is defined as the spiritual capacity which allows the spiritual man to perceive and analyse, capture, or discern external or interior signals or excitations coming from God or the spiritual world; to react to contact with the Spirit of God or the spirit of the devil.

Let me return to our topic. The epistle of Romans in chapter ten, verse seventeen, allows us to support the revelation relating to this point: "So faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God ". The verb that precedes faith is: "to hear." At this level, the enemy bases his attacks; he sets up insurmountable barriers to many, making them insensitive to God's message. I am talking about atheists, unbelievers, gay people, and lesbians who ultimately turn their backs on the Creator to make their own spiritual world! At the same time, they live in the universe created by God! God condemns such practice (Romans 1: 24-32).

Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, received the revelation that she was going to be the mother of the Savior; she believed the angel's message that Elizabeth, her relative, was six months pregnant. That was good news because she knew Elizabeth was barren and old. At the same time, she got up and went to a city in Judah where Zechariah and Elizabeth lived. She entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, her child jumped into her womb, and she was filled with the Holy Spirit. She cried out loudly: Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. How is it granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, as soon as the voice of your greeting came to my ear, the child leapt for joy in my womb. Blessed is she who believes because the things spoken to her by the Lord will be fulfilled." (Luke 1:39-45). At the simple voice of Mary's greeting, the child still in her mother's womb jumped, and she was filled with the Holy Spirit. A spiritual contact that makes even the child move in its mother's womb!

Now let us say what sensibility is:

The enemy attacks sensibility to affect or prevent faith from working or acting. Faith comes through sensibility.

Sensibility is defined as this function by which the nervous system perceives and analyses external or internal phenomena. -It is this ability to react to external or internal excitations.

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- Considering these two definitions, I can identify a single definition: It is the spiritual capacity which allows the spiritual man to perceive and analyse, capture, or discern external or interior signals or excitations coming from God or the spiritual world; to react to contact with the Spirit of God or the spirit of the devil.

I am not talking here about the emotional sensibility which, when not controlled by the Holy Spirit, can lead us into carnal behaviours, but about the sensibility of our spirit to what God communicates to us through his Spirit.

I can recall the conversation between Jesus Christ and his disciples when He answered their question: "Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And for them this prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled: you will hear with your ears, and you will not understand; For the hearts of this people have become insensible; They have hardened their ears, and closed their eyes, lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and turn, and heal them" (Matthew 13:13-15).

Insensibility produces blindness and deafness, which are the barriers to faith. Let us note from this passage the verbs which act on sensibility: hear, understand, harden, close, convert. And this is what the enemy attacks to prevent people from converting. When the ears are blocked and the eyes blinded, one is spiritually dead. That explains why our churches are filled with spiritually dead people, unbelieving Christians whom Jesus Christ calls the unbelieving and

perverse race, but who are alive in the world; Christians who are lukewarm and pious in appearance like the fig tree bearing leaves but not having figs.

Sensibility acts upstream and downstream, before faith and after faith. Let us illustrate it with Peter's experience. He was a disciple of Jesus Christ and was at his side throughout the ministry of Jesus Christ. He had the Holy Spirit because the epistle of John shows us that before his ascension, Christ had breathed on them so that they would have the Holy Spirit (John 20:22). And in Mark 16:15-18, he gives them the signs of those who believe in him to cast out demons. However, ten days after the ascension of Christ, the promise of God, given through the mouth of his servant and prophet Joel, to pour out his Spirit on all flesh, was fulfilled. On the day of Pentecost, while the Jews celebrated the feast of seeds or harvest, the disciples were gathering in the upper room in prayer, waiting for the fulfilment of the promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. When Peter received power from heaven and was baptized in the Holy Spirit, he was clothed with power from on high. It was then that he stood up to fulfil the Great Commission as recommended by Jesus. His preaching was so powerful that it provoked a reaction: "And when they heard this speech, their hearts were greatly touched, and they said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Peter told them, "Change your attitude and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you, your children, and all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God calls" (Acts 2:36-40).

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Today, few people are touched by words and agree to change their lives. Their hearts have become callous (Matthew 13; 13-15).

Consider the following passage from Ezekiel 36:26 by referring to the comparator of biblical versions:

### New International Version

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

I will remove your heart hard as stone from your being, and I will give you a heart of flesh. (The Sower Bible)

I will remove your callous heart like a stone, and I will replace it with a receptive heart. (French fluent)

I will remove your heart as hard as a stone from your inner being and give you a sensitive heart. (Living Word).

I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. (Louis Segond Bible).

A heart of stone means unbelieving, insensitive, stubborn, and rebellious.

A heart of flesh means sensitive and receptive.

The Lord wanted to say to His people, “I will remove your dull heart like a stone and replace it with a heart that is sensitive, or receptive, and good” (Ezekiel 11:19). Faith is impossible to access! The psalmist



compares the insensible heart to fat: “Their heart is insensible as fat; I delight in your law. » (Psalm 119:69-70).

To destroy man, the devil acts upstream and downstream, that is, before and after his conversion. He makes one's heart insensitive and impenetrable before conversion, and he still acts while one is already converted. We have always found that there are people who are allergic to specific themes I develop. They react negatively to the point of not giving offerings, tithes, and any other contribution to punish the messenger. When we do not like the messenger, we even hate the message. There is no question of bringing to conversion a heart that is insensitive, of stone, as the texts I have just mentioned attest. The sensitive man is touched by contact with the Word of God (1 Samuel 10:26; 2 King 22:19; Acts 2:17; Ezekiel 36:27). In other words, the stony heart is synonymous with the unbelieving heart, while the heart of flesh is a heart redeemed, transformed, and renewed by Christ. Jesus Christ says:

For this people's heart has become calloused. they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'

Matthew 13: 15

In the text above, the question of the insensibility of the heart is more important because the ears are blocked so that they cannot hear. They cannot believe it

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because listening is lacking. The prophet Isaiah already mentions it in the Old Testament:

Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”

Isaiah 6:10.

Hear this, you foolish and senseless people who have eyes but do not see who have ears but do not hear:

Jeremiah 5:21

From these scriptures, God warned Isaiah that the people had hardened their hearts to the point where they could no longer change. Do we need to experience these things today? Twenty years in the faith, fifteen years, but no notable change! People are always the same! Incredulous race!

I note two other verbs in this text: touch- change. Everything starts from the promise that the Lord had just made to the disciples (Acts 1:4-8):

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with[b] the Holy Spirit.” Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy

Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel? He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

In Acts 2:1-4, the fulfilment of the promise with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the glory of God appeared in the form of tongues of fire which rested on each of them. So there were one hundred and twenty tongues of fire. They all began to speak in new tongues. We all emphasize responding to the opinion, which popularizes the opposite by claiming that not everyone should speak in tongues. If, in this passage, all spoke in tongues, why must we argue otherwise?

It is simple to understand, do not defend yourself if you do not speak in tongues; it is a sin, instead, ask your Heavenly Father, and He will give you. He says it in the Gospel according to Matthew (7:11): “If then, being evil as you are, you know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give -he gives good things to those who ask them.” And the apostle Paul completes it: “Aspire for the best gifts. And I will show you one more way par excellence. » (1 Corinthians 12:31, 39). Speaking in tongues is an area of sensibility. We evoke the experience of the unbelievers who, listening to the

disciples' message, began to speak in tongues without having believed and been baptized (Acts 10:47). The Holy Spirit accompanies his presence with his power (Mark 16:16-18):

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.

The gift was given to all in the upper room, but according to the measure of the Holy Spirit. The next step is evangelism, as described in Acts 2: 14-36.

In addition to speaking in tongues, in chapter 3, the miracles begin to fulfil the prophecy in the book of Isaiah 61:1-3.

Sensibility leads to change and salvation; it alerts us to the coming of Christ. The days of Noah and Lot are concrete examples of how people lived with a hard heart until the flood and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. The parable of ten virgins is also an illustration of this. Out of ten, only five entered with the bridegroom because they were sensitive and five insensitive others remained (Matthew 25:1-14).

Let us return to the message of the book of Acts, verse 2: 37; there was the reaction of the crowd who had their hearts deeply touched. That is what marks their sensibility: "what will we do? » Peter's message was so

powerful and filled with the Holy Spirit that it pierced the hearts of the listeners. The listeners had the veil removed as they contemplated their former lives as if mirroring themselves. They saw themselves condemned by this way of living, so they asked what they could do. The bottom line is that they heard, and God opened their hearts so that they accepted the message and repented. God's message is given for one purpose: to lead the audience to repentance, abandoning the old life and following Jesus Christ. We read it in the following: "Therefore, those who accepted his word were baptized."

As we mentioned at the beginning, we noted the verbs that are used when it comes to spiritual sensibility: Hear, see, understand, touch.

### Hearing

What does hearing mean?

The Petit Larousse Illustrated Dictionary defines it as "perceiving through the ears, perceiving through the mind, understanding, enjoying the sense of hearing. He who cannot hear is deaf. Hearing gives life. Jesus Christ says:

Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. "Do not be amazed at

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this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned. By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

John 5:25-30

Before my conversion, I was so insensitive to the things of God that I could not allow anyone to speak to me about these things. I rejected everything that could lead me to believe because my heart was so callous. In the text above, Jesus Christ clearly says that hearing allows one to receive salvation. And that is what the enemy does, preventing us from being able to hear in order to believe.

In my introduction, I said that the verb “to hear” precedes and conditions faith. I will say that it is the mother who generates faith. Isn't that a good revelation? The apostle Paul emphasizes it in his epistle to the Romans when he says, “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.” When the heart is hardened, the ears become blocked; thus, one can speak without being heard, and one will understand nothing.

Let us consider the text from the book of Acts 28:25-27:

They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: “The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your ancestors when he said through Isaiah the prophet: “Go to this people and say, “You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you

will be ever seeing but never perceiving.” For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.

The enemy uses all his energy to prevent them from moving away from him and pushing them into his camp. I sometimes evaluate the members of our church based on their understanding of different messages. Often, I ask the question to tell us what was preached or taught in the previous session or last Sunday. I find myself with various reactions. Some have understood the message; others have vague ideas, while some heard nothing. Such reactions take me back to the parable of the Sower, who reaped four types of reactions. The devil’s greatest enemy is fighting because he knows that faith is created through it. If we must fight the fight of faith, we must fight to keep hearing.

God again set a certain day, calling it “Today.” This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”

Hebrews 4:7

Hearing must lead to change, repentance, and expected actions. Those who refuse to hear harden their hearts. This is what wants. Adam and Eve had hardened their hearts to listen to the devil, the ancient serpent.

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### Touching

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Let us take the text in its entirety because it contains a lot of information that we will use as we move forward:

Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before God when you heard what he spoke against this place and its people, and because you humbled yourself before me and tore your robes and wept in my presence, I have heard you, declares the Lord. Now I will gather you to your ancestors, and you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster I am going to bring on this place and on those who live here. 'So they took her answer back to the king. Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. He went up to the temple of the Lord with the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests, and the Levites—all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the Lord. The king stood by his pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord—to follow the Lord and keep his commands, statutes, and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, and to obey the words of the covenant written in this book.

2 Chronicles 34:27-31

Everything in the text is about sensibility and its effects on people's lives. "Your heart was touched; you humbled yourself before God by hearing his words against the place and its inhabitants; you humbled



yourself before me, tore your clothes and wept before me. » (Emphasised by me)

The king's reaction: "The king stood on his platform and made a covenant before the Lord: he agreed to follow the Lord and to keep his commandments, his instructions, and his statutes with all his heart and all his soul, applying the words of the covenant written in this book.

I note the following action verbs: touch, humiliate, tear clothes, cry, see, and hear.

Let us take another example from the New Testament. It is about the woman who suffered from the issue of blood (Luke 8:43-48):

And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped. "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you." But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me. Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.

Let us correct two things:

Who exercised sensibility between Jesus and the woman? When people teach about sensibility, they often